

Message Text

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FOR FUNSETH FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, SOPN (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: DAILY PRESS BRIEFING WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 1976

NO. 26

FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF DAILY PRESS BRIEFING FOR WEDNESDAY,
APRIL 28, 1976:

(1) ADMINISTRATION VETO OF FOREIGN MILITARY ASSISTANCE
BILL -- TWO SEPARATE BILLS ARE INVOLVED: AUTHORIZATION
BILL, WHICH WAS SUBJECT OF PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH REPU-
BLICAN LEADERSHIP AT WHITE HOUSE YESTERDAY; AND APPROPRIA-
TION BILL, SUBJECT OF EVANS AND NOVAK COLUMN TODAY. ON
AUTHORIZATION BILL, WE UNDERSTAND PRESIDENT PREPARED TO
VETO UNLESS IT CONTAINS SOME RELIEF ON RESTRICTIVE AMEND-
MENTS AND HE COMMUNICATED THIS YESTERDAY TO REPUBLICAN
LEADERSHIP. ON APPROPRIATION BILL, THIS SEEMS TO BE MOOT
POINT UNTIL MATTER OF AUTHORIZATION BILL IS SETTLED. WE
UNDERSTAND THAT TRANSITIONAL QUARTER APPROPRIATION HAS
BEEN DISCUSSED BETWEEN CONGRESS AND WHITE HOUSE BUT CANNOT
CONFIRM COMPROMISE HAS BEEN WORKED OUT, AS ALLEGED BY EVANS
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AND NOVAK. OUR POLICY IS THAT CONTAINED IN PRESIDENT'S

LETTER TO SPEAKER ALBERT.

(2) CANCELLATION OF GHANA VISIT -- ASKED WHETHER ADMINISTRATION BELIEVES SOVIETS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR CANCELLATION SPOKESMAN REFERRED TO STATEMENTS BY OFFICIALS IN SECRETARY'S PARTY APRIL 27. ASKED IF U.S. HAS PROTESTED TO SOVIETS, SPOKESMAN SAID HE WAS NOT USING WORD "PROTEST." WE HAVE BEEN IN COMMUNICATION WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENTS OF GHANA AND SOVIET UNION ON SUBJECT OF CANCELLATION AND HAVE MADE KNOWN OUR SERIOUS VIEWS OF CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING IT. CONTACT IN BOTH CASES WAS MADE IN WASHINGTON. ASKED IF WE HAVE PROOF ENOUGH THAT WE CAN CALL SOVIETS IN AND SAY THAT THEY WERE SOMEHOW INVOLVED, SPOKESMAN SAID WE FELT STRONGLY ENOUGH ABOUT IT TO MAKE OUR VIEWS VERY CLEARLY KNOWN TO SOVIETS IN WASHINGTON. ASKED IF AMERICAN CONTACT WITH SOVIETS WAS LIMITED TO CANCELLATION OF GHANA VISIT, SPOKESMAN REPEATED THAT SUBJECT WAS LIMITED TO CANCELLATION. HE REFUSED TO SPECULATE ON WHAT FUTURE EFFECT CANCELLATION MIGHT HAVE ON SOVIET-U.S. RELATIONS.

(3) U.S. REACTION TO IAN SMITH SPEECH APRIL 27 ON BRINGING TRIBAL CHIEFS INTO CABINET -- IT WOULD BE MOST SURPRISING IF SMITH'S ACTION WERE ACCEPTED AS A STEP FORWARD BY ANY RESPONSIBLE REPRESENTATIVE OF RHODESIA'S AFRICAN MAJORITY. IT MOST CERTAINLY WOULD NOT BE OUR CONCEPTION OF WHAT REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT MEANS.

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